

# THE Asylum

VOL. 34 NO. 2



SUMMER 2016

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society • COINBOOKS.ORG

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# Numismatic Bibliomania Society

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**NBS Membership/Subscriptions:** *The Asylum* is mailed to all NBS Members. Membership is \$25.00 inside the United States and \$30.00 outside the U.S. New members receive one back issue plus all new issues upon publication. Requests for membership and change of address should be submitted to the Treasurer at the address below.

**Submissions:** *The Asylum* (ISSN 1552-1931) is published in four issues per year. Submissions should be sent to the editor at nbsasylum@gmail.com. Authors, please put your name(s) and contact information on all submitted material. All accepted manuscripts become the property of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. For more information, please contact the editor.

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## Deadlines for Submissions and Advertising:

Spring Issue (No. 1) February 1	Autumn Issue (No. 3) August 1
Summer Issue (No. 2) May 1	Winter Issue (No. 4) November 1

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# President's Message

Marc C. Ricard, NBS President

Dear Friends,

What an exciting time to be a part of Numismatic Literature collecting! With the Newman Portal project in full swing, various mail-bid and auction sales, and many new books becoming available, it gives me great hope for the future of our collecting specialty.

We are also very privileged to enjoy our fine NBS publication, *The Asylum*, which you hold in your hands right now. This is a benefit of your ongoing membership in our great organization. I encourage all of you to share your copies with non-NBS members and friends, and ask them to join.

Another benefit that the NBS shares with the general collecting public is our annual Symposium, and General Meeting and Auction, that take place at the ANA's World's Fair of Money. I am continuing to work within the numismatic community to finalize our speakers for both events, and I encourage your donations of fine numismatic literature to our auction. This is the only non-dues fundraiser that our organization has, and the proceeds continue to be a much needed source of income for our continuing operations. Please contact George Kolbe at [gfk@numislit.com](mailto:gfk@numislit.com) or 909-338-6527 to donate your item to the auction.

Please stay tuned to the *E-Sylum* for more details on our events at the ANA World's Fair of Money in Anaheim, California, August 2106. Our events are scheduled for Thursday and Friday, August 11 and 12.

It is time to vote for our 2015 Jack Collins Award for best new contributor and Joel J. Orosz Award for best article in last year's volume of *The Asylum*, which will be presented in Anaheim. The ballot is inserted in this issue. You may return completed ballots to the address printed on the ballot or vote online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T9F8SG9>.

I thank all of you for continuing to encourage everyone in the hobby to "Buy the Book, Before the Coin."

Best regards,  
Marc C. Ricard  
President, NBS



Maria Fanning,  
The Asylum Editor

## From the Editor

Thank you for all of your kind and encouraging comments on my first issue. I'm grateful to be a part of such a thoughtful and passionate group. It was fun hearing from so many of you and meeting (virtually) those I haven't met before. I hope to hear from all of you at some point with constructive feedback or more articles.

In this issue, we welcome new contributor Shanna Berk Schmidt who wrote a fun history of her family's numismatic library and its rebirth in downtown Chicago, which she urges all numismatists to visit and share. We also have fascinating contributions from David Gladfelter on an early New Jersey bank history and Tom Harrison with the story of an unusual and exciting numismatic lottery.

Regular columnist George Kolbe shares an intriguing story in his fifth installment of *Reminiscences of a Numismatic Bookseller* of the theft of the Percy L. Rideout collection. David Fanning returns with *Off the Shelf*, explaining how early U.S. plated auction catalogues can help establish provenance for ancient coins.

## Advertising in *The Asylum*

You may have noticed that you received the last issue faster than usual and that is mainly because we have decided to use the First Class mailing rate for all of our domestic subscribers. This will enable us to get issues to you in a timely manner so that we can accept ads for time-sensitive auctions and events.

I am also excited by the response we've received to our survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N295ZKS>). Your answers will help us give potential advertisers concrete reasons to buy ads on our pages and keep the journal going. Attracting advertising allows *The Asylum* to maintain its high quality and gives the NBS the resources to further the hobby.

One comment from the survey I would like to share was expressed by several respondents who stated that they were often most interested in articles that had the least to do with their particular area of collecting. This sentiment exemplifies the open-mindedness and unbridled curiosity of numismatic bibliomaniacs and what makes our membership such an exceptional group.

I would urge all members to consider purchasing an ad in *The Asylum* for as little as \$40 for your business or club meetings or events, or urging others to do so. I would be happy to send a 2016 Advertising Kit and sample issue to anyone requesting one. Please email me at [nbsasylum@gmail.com](mailto:nbsasylum@gmail.com) and I will send one right away by email or US Mail. The basic ad rates are listed on page 2 of this issue.

I hope you enjoy this issue!



# To the Editor

We welcome your letters! Send us your thoughts on articles, the NBS and numismatic literature in general. Please send all letters to the editor to [nbsasylum@gmail.com](mailto:nbsasylum@gmail.com).

To the Editor:

What do readers do with their Asylum issues? Not everyone is building a library, and many need to find them “a good home.”

The Rochester Numismatic Association takes mine for their John J. Pittman Memorial Library.

Readers might enjoy sharing ideas for placing their issues. May we please hear your thoughts?

Nicholas M. Graver  
Rochester, NY  
[nmgraver@gmail.com](mailto:nmgraver@gmail.com)



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BRIEF HISTORY  
OF THE  
*State Bank at Camden, N. J.*  
WITH THE  
ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION  
AND  
BY-LAWS  
OF  
*The National State Bank of Camden, N. J.*

---

CAMDEN, N. J.:  
PRINTED BY S. CHEW, NO. 13 MARKET STREET,  
1865.

Figure 1: *Brief History of the State Bank at Camden, N.J.*

# An Early New Jersey Bank History

By David D. Gladfelter

A history of the State Bank at Camden, New Jersey, published in 1865 by the bank's immediate successor, the National State Bank of Camden, N.J.<sup>1</sup>, has come to light recently as a result of a records purge following a bank merger.

The history (hereinafter referred to as *Brief History*, fig. 1) had been hiding in plain view. It had been kept in an historical exhibit case in the lobby of the bank's main office at Broadway and Cooper Street in Camden, through a series of mergers, until the bank was acquired in 1996 by PNC Bank, now the fifth largest in the country. At that time, many of the old bank's records were simply discarded by the new owners, including its copy of *Brief History* as well as the old bank's three ledgers that had been maintained during its note issuing period prior to receiving its national bank charter. (Two of the ledgers, and possibly the third as well, have been rescued from oblivion; the story of those ledgers will, in due course, be told separately.)

Wendell Wolka, a well-known paper money collector and author, retrieved some of the old bank's more important records through a chance discovery. The records dump had been ordered by an officer of the takeover megabank, and the contractor whom PNC had hired to haul them away recognized their historical potential. The contractor had a friend who dealt in collectibles; this friend loaded his small truck with what he could carry and took it away for safe keeping and eventual disposal on the collectibles market. This dealer came to Wolka's attention via a chance Internet contact; Wolka, then living in Ohio, came east for a trade show, met the dealer, and purchased the two ledgers, *Brief History*, and what few additional items he could bring home with him on the plane. Other records were obtained by other collectors, but a set of large oil paintings of the bank's directors, its National Bank charter, minute books, the remaining ledger, photographs, stock certificates, and the like, which the dealer had saved, are unaccounted for today.<sup>2</sup>

Bank histories tend to be vanity publications, written by officials or committees of the bank on the occasion of a centennial or similar milestone, touting the bank's civic contributions and praising its community leadership and forward progress. This perspective is not entirely unwarranted. As Elvira Clain-Stefanelli has written:

People were conscious and proud of their achievements, and nobody was more so than the banker who was at the root of all these achievements. He wanted the world to know what the people had created, and at the same time entice them to do more.<sup>3</sup>

Bank histories also exemplify the cliché that "history is written by the winners," in that short-lived banks, regardless of what they may have achieved during their existence, do not survive to produce histories of themselves. Information about such





TOP Figure 2: They don't call paper money collectors "rag pickers" for nothing. This note was issued by Buck & Stratton, proprietors of a retail business in Bridgeton, N. J., in 1814. At the time, SBC was the only bank in Camden.

CENTER Figure 3: Here's another business that redeemed its scrip in specie or SBC notes.

BOTTOM Figure 4: Union Works and Cumberland Works were both South Jersey iron works, the former in Burlington County, the latter in Cumberland County.

banks must be obtained from other sources, such as legislative acts and proceedings and contemporaneous newspaper accounts. We know that the State Bank at Camden was a sound institution, not only because of its longevity, but because local merchants made their scrip redeemable in its notes as well as in “specie” (figs. 2, 3 and 4).

In 1942 the pioneer obsolete currency chronicler, Dr. John A. Muscalus, published the first bibliography of bank histories.<sup>4</sup> Although Muscalus, a Pennsylvanian, was on the faculty of Mercer County College in Trenton, and managed a large used book shop there appropriately called Acres of Books, the *Brief History* managed to escape his attention.<sup>5</sup> Unpretentious and plain looking, it was also overlooked by Michael J. Sullivan in his recent, much-expanded annotated bibliography of bank histories.<sup>6</sup> Sullivan’s treatise contains 1,649 entries, nearly all of them annotated; Muscalus’s work listed 222 entries by title only.

What information does *Brief History* contain, you might ask. Does it add significantly or even tangentially to what is already known about the State Bank at Camden?

It describes how the bank’s capital was raised by sale of shares of stock pursuant to the enabling legislation enacted January 28, 1812;<sup>7</sup> how and why the capital was subsequently reduced; how the bank’s charter was extended and continued; names and dates of service of all persons holding the offices of president and cashier under the bank’s state charter; how the bank converted to a national association after passage of Federal and state enabling legislation in 1864 and 1865, respectively; what name was chosen for the national association; who made up its first board of directors, and adoption and text of the national bank’s articles of association and by-laws. It concludes with a simple resolution authorizing the national bank to open for business.

In short, its text is concerned with mundane matters, lacking the stories found in later bank histories about community development and the bank’s role in accomplishing it. Also lacking is more detailed biographical data about the bank’s officers and employees. One should remember, however, that *Brief History* is at the beginning of the bank history genre. Whether it is the first of its kind remains to be seen; all that Sullivan and I can say for now is that it is the earliest published bank history known to us thus far.<sup>8</sup>


The original building which housed the State Bank at Camden no longer exists. The main office building which PNC Bank acquired has been sold to Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. It was built in 1928 and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

#### NOTES

- 1 *Brief History of the State Bank at Camden, N.J., with the Articles of Association and By-Laws of the National State Bank of Camden, N.J.* (Camden: printed by S. Chew, 1865).
- 2 See W. Wolka, “Then and Now: The State Bank at Camden,” *Paper Money* 41:24 (Jan/Feb 2002). That article’s description of the bank’s early history is taken from *Brief History*. The dealer offered Wolka the third ledger as well, but he declined to buy it due to its bulk and airline carry-on space limitations. Personal conversation, April 2016.
- 3 “An Historian’s View of the State Bank Notes: A Mirror of Life in the Early Republic,” in *America’s Currency, 1789-1866: Coinage of the Americas Conference* (New York: American Numismatic Society, 1985), 25, 27.

- 4 *Bibliography of Histories of Specific Banks* (Norristown, PA, self-published, 1942).
- 5 See P. Smith, *American Numismatic Biographies* (Rocky River, OH, Gold Leaf Press, 1992), 171.
- 6 *An Annotated Bibliography of United States Individual and State Bank Histories, 1878-2000* (South Freeport, ME, Ascensius Press, 2013, limited edition of 100 copies).
- 7 "An Act to establish State-Banks in New-Jersey," passed January 28, 1812. In *Acts of the Thirty-Sixth General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey, at a session begun at Trenton, on the eighth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and twelve, and continued by adjournments. Being the second sitting.* (Trenton, printed by James J. Wilson, 1812.) This act created six independent banks, namely, the State Bank at Camden, the State Bank at Trenton, the State Bank at New-Brunswick, the State Bank at Elizabeth, the State Bank at Newark and the State Bank at Morris [in Morristown]. The entity described as "State Bank of New Jersey" with "branches" in the foregoing six cities in James A. Haxby's *Standard Catalog of United States Obsolete Bank Notes, 1782-1866*, volume 2, never existed.
- 8 Personal correspondence, December 13, 2014.





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# The John K. Curtis Gamble

By Thomas D. Harrison

Today, when that pivotal moment arrives, numismatists have two primary avenues for selling their collections. Typically, their prized treasures are sold outright to a dealer or fellow collector, or they are consigned to an auction house that creates a catalog to record a legacy of their numismatic achievements. However, as antebellum dealers began to disperse our country's earliest coin cabinets, another vehicle was employed to transfer numismatic holdings to a new generation of collectors.

John K. Curtis conceived a precarious, yet bold, plan to sell his "ENTIRE valuable collection" on February 11, 1861, through a lottery scheme. The following is part of the Curtis biography provided by Emmanuel J. Attinelli in his indispensable *Numisgraphics*:

Mr. John K. Curtis . . . was born in Deptford Road, Surrey Co., England, December 11th, 1828, and came with his parents in 1841 to this city; he soon after entered the employ of John Brock, a watchmaker and dealer in general curiosities, where he learnt his trade. In 1843 Mr. Curtis commenced a cabinet of his own, placing therein such choice pieces as his advantages favored him with. In 1857, having established himself on his own account, at No. 83 Bleeker St., his collection was brought into service as part stock for his new enterprise. Mr. Curtis was, as will be thus seen, one of the earliest in the field as a dealer in this country . . . Mr. Curtis has published three dealers' catalogues, besides a number of others for auction sales . . . Mr. Curtis was also the publisher of a number of well-known medals, one of them bearing the effigy of the well-known antiquarian, Mr. John Allan.

According to Attinelli, Curtis was not the first numismatist to attempt the lottery strategy. On December 1, 1855, Bostonian Daniel Groux audaciously proclaimed, "For the disposal of the best collection of Medals, Coins, and Numismatical Works in the United States. Catalogue of a Grand Collection of Coins and Medals . . . by a lottery." In a variation of numismatic games of chance, another Curtis contemporary, Augustus B. Sage, promoted his numismatic book raffles on his 1859 store cards. While the Curtis sales innovation was not unprecedented, it was certainly out of step with traditional sales methods of the day.

Curtis publicized his sale in the March 1861 issue of *The Genesee Farmer: A Monthly Journal Devoted To Agriculture & Horticulture, Domestic and Rural Economy*, published in Rochester, New York. Oddly, his numismatic ad was planted among listings promoting fancy fowls, native grape roots, and strawberry plants. The classified ad read: "COINS, MEDALS, COINS.—The entire CURTIS Collection of rare and valuable Gold, Silver, Copper and Bronze Coins and Medals of all Nations is now selling at the low price of \$1 each. For circular address JOHN K. CURTIS, 83 Bleeker st, New York". Curtis's tempting advertising ploy obviously omitted one glaring detail, namely his lottery sales strategy.

Curtis also attempted to lure any and all potential gaming clientele with an all-inclusive headline on a one-page handbill: "TO NUMISMATISTS IN PARTICULAR! And to Everybody in General!" He then offered some enticing bait stating, "THE



TO  
**NUMISMATISTS IN PARTICULAR!**  
And to Everybody in General!

THE  
**GREATEST CHANCE EVER OFFERED,**  
TO OBTAIN  
**Rare and Valuable Coins and Medals,**  
At the very **LOW SUM OF ONE DOLLAR EACH.**

In consequence of the present dull state of trade, the subscriber intends selling off his ENTIRE valuable collection of rare and fine American and Foreign Coins and Medals, in Gold, Silver, Copper and Bronze, at the unprecedented low price of One Dollar each, indiscriminately, in the following manner, viz :

He will pack and seal up, in separate boxes, (of an equal size ; and each box shall not be distinguishable one from another by any mark or number), each and every Coin and Medal that he has now in his possession, either of the value of one cent, one dollar, five, ten, fifteen, twenty or seventy-five dollars, which is the highest value of any one Coin in the collection. Will commence on the 11th day of February, 1861, to dispose of them, in the above manner, until all are sold.

The collection contains the following American Dollars, from 1795 to 1860, including 1836, 1838, 1852 and 1858 Proofs, but no 1804 :

Half Dollars from 1794 to 1860, including 1797, 1815, 1852, but no 1804 or 1796.

Quarter Dollars of various dates, from 1796 to 1860, but no 1823 or 27.

Dimes from 1796, including 1798, 1800, 1-2-3-5-7-9-11-23-46 to 1850.

Half Dimes, from 1795 to 1860, including 1797, 1800, and 1846.

Three Cent Pieces, from 1851 to 1860.

Cents from 1793 to 1860, including all the rare dates, 1799, 1804, &c., except 1815. All Genuine.

Half Cents of 1793, 4-6-7, 1800, 1802 to 1811, 25-26-28-29-32-3-4 and 5, and the very rare 1841, 50-51-53 to 57.

The Washington Cents of 1791, 1783, and many other Rare Washington Coins and Medals, Silver and Copper.

Many of the above Coins are Proofs, and most all are in good order.

American Colonial of most all the various Types and Varieties, including the very rare N. E. Shilling, Massachusetts Pine Tree Shilling, the unique Massachusetts Copper Coin, Anapolis Shilling, Castorland, Louisiana, Virginia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, &c. Some uncirculated and very fine.

Mint Pattern Coins in great variety, including the very rare Proof 1836 Dollar, 1838 Dollar and Half Dollar, 1859 Half Dollars, and 1858 Cents, 1855 Flying Eagle Cents, 1854 Plain Headed do., 1856 Nickle Cents, 1850 Three Cent Pieces, and many others too numerous to detail.

Rare and Fine Roman and Grecian Coins, in silver and copper. English, German, and other Foreign Silver Coins and Medals ; some very fine and rare. Fine American Bronze, Brass and White Metal Medals, Medalets and Store Cards ; some very rare.

N. B.—The above is no humbug, but a real Bona Fide Sale to dispose of his very rare and valuable stock. Orders by post promptly attended to.

**JOHN K. CURTIS,**  
83 Bleecker St., N. Y.

James Huggins, Printer, 235 Canal St., N. Y.



GREATEST CHANCE EVER OFFERED, TO OBTAIN Rare and Valuable Coins and Medals, At the very LOW SUM OF ONE DOLLAR EACH.”

The handbill also revealed Curtis’s rational and blueprint for the unorthodox sales strategy:

“In consequence of the present dull state of trade, the subscriber intends selling off his ENTIRE valuable collection of rare and fine American and Foreign Coins and Medals, in Gold, Silver, Copper and Bronze, at the unprecedented low price of One Dollar each, indiscriminately, in the following manner, viz: He will pack and seal up, in separate boxes, (of an equal size; and each box shall not be distinguishable one from another by any mark or number), each and every Coin and Medal that he has now in his possession, either of the value of one cent, one dollar, five, ten, fifteen, twenty or seventy-five dollars, which is the highest value of any one Coin in the collection.”

The numismatic smorgasbord ranged from half cents to dollars and also included colonials, patterns, medals, ancients, and foreign coins. Several rare listings were individually spotlighted, but numerous pieces, detailing the date and particularly the condition were left to the imagination of the gambler. The large cent listing read, “Cents from 1793 to 1860, including all the rare dates, 1799, 1804, &c., except 1815. All Genuine.” Curiously, the only “All Genuine” disclaimer followed the large cent listing which conceivably raised a red flag regarding the authenticity of the other offerings.

Curtis’s final pitch reiterated the great window of opportunity awaiting the prospective wager: “N. B.— The above is no humbug, but a real Bona Fide Sale to dispose of his very rare and valuable stock.”

The lottery scheme at hand was offered as lot 314 in the Stephen Epstein sale conducted by Kolbe and Fanning on November 7, 2015. Previously, this lottery scheme handbill sold on January 9, 2010, as lot 55 in the George F. Kolbe sale of the Stack Family Library. The lot description revealed the artifact was discovered in J. N. T. Levick’s personal copy of his renowned 1865 sale. The catalogers noted this was only their second encounter of the 6 x 9.25 inch piece of ephemeral memorabilia. On November 28, 1995, a different example surfaced in the Bowers and Merena Armand Champa part four sale as lot 3373.

What pressing circumstances persuaded Curtis to consider a lottery scheme? Perhaps one contributing factor was the uncertain climate surrounding the impending Civil War. In addition, Curtis undoubtedly sensed American numismatics was about to shift gears into an unprecedented era of enthusiasm and maturation. Curtis’ mindset may have been influenced by the emerging competition from ambitious upstart dealers like Edward Cogan and W. Elliot Woodward as they began to establish an ever greater foothold on the numismatic landscape.

On a more personal note, clues may be found in the Curtis consignments to the Bangs, Merwin & Co. auctions of November and December 1860. Attinelli detailed the specifics of these sales as:

November 23, 1860 — 289 lots sold for \$102.47

December 13 and 14, 1860 — 446 lots sold for \$473.28

December 15, 1860 — broadside, 300 lots sold for \$13.50

We will disregard the broadside dated December 15, 1860, because it yielded a paltry \$13.50 for 300 lots. We must assume this type of material would not be typical

of the “Rare and Valuable Coins and Medals” represented in the lottery sale.

An inspection of the other two catalogs indicates the material was generally run-of-the-mill with a few superior offerings particularly in the sale of December 13-14, 1860. On the back wrapper of this auction catalog, Curtis emphasized, “that it is not his intention of retiring from the very interesting pursuit of collecting and disposing of the Gems of the Numismatic art.” He also stated, “that in making this Sale, he has acted under the urgent request of many collectors, to part with a portion of his FINE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF CENTS.” If we take Curtis at his word regarding his retirement statement, it provides evidence significant events arose that rerouted his ambitious numismatic career. In 1862 Curtis issued a thirty-one page fixed price list, but then left the numismatic stage. According to Attinelli, his only encore appearances consisted of one lot in the sale of June 27, 1867, and 370 lots in the sale conducted by Bang, Merwin & Co. on February 19, 1872. His second comment, at least regarding large cents, seems to contradict his handbill statement concerning “the dull state of trade” made just eight weeks later. Of note, large cents were well represented in the sales of November 23, 1860, and December 13-14, 1860. The front wrapper of the December 13 and 14 sale read, “CATALOGUE OF A PART OF THE CURTIS COLLECTION OF Fine American Cents.” Remarkably, this sale offered a complete date set of large cents, as did his lottery sale!

Finding no definitive record of the Curtis lottery scheme’s success or failure leaves us to speculate on the results. Possible circumstantial evidence of a failed venture is revealed in Curtis’s extensive 1,851 lot fixed price list issued in 1862. Many of the handbill descriptions were vague, listing only a generic category. A few of the specific listings in the handbill are missing from the fixed price list. However, there are many coins potentially relisted in his fixed price list. It is plausible a handful of the rarest pieces were sold outright following the handbill’s failure with the balance resurfacing in the fixed price list. Also, the initial Curtis declaration announcing he planned to sell his “ENTIRE valuable collection” may help to substantiate an unsuccessful undertaking. It would be quite a stretch to assume Curtis sold his “ENTIRE” collection or even a significant portion in his lottery sale and then promptly amassed an impressive inventory to offer in his 1862 fixed price list. As a frame of reference, the fixed price list totaled approximately \$2200, ranking it among the preeminent sales of 1862. Attinelli recorded the top producing auctions of 1862 were the William A. Lilliendahl sale held May 26, 1862, that realized \$2241 and the Rev. J. M. Finotti sale held on November 11, 1862, that yielded \$3751.43.

On the success side of the ledger, Attinelli recorded that A. B. Sage & Co., “drawing on and after March 5, 1861,” and A. S. Robinson (June 25, 1861) conducted lottery sales on the heels of Curtis’s novelty. Although doubtful, could it be possible these latter catalogers witnessed Curtis hitting pay dirt, or were they jumping on the bandwagon hoping to tap into the human frailty of wanting to get rich quick?

If indeed, for whatever unknown reason, Curtis found himself scrambling for funds, the temptation of a lottery scheme may have been too much to resist. Regardless of his possible success or probable failure, numismatic lottery schemes faded into obscurity by 1862. Although many unanswered questions persist, borrowing Curtis’ phraseology of 155 years ago undeniably portrays his intriguing handbill today. N. B. The above handbill “is no humbug, but a real Bona Fide” numismatic treasure.



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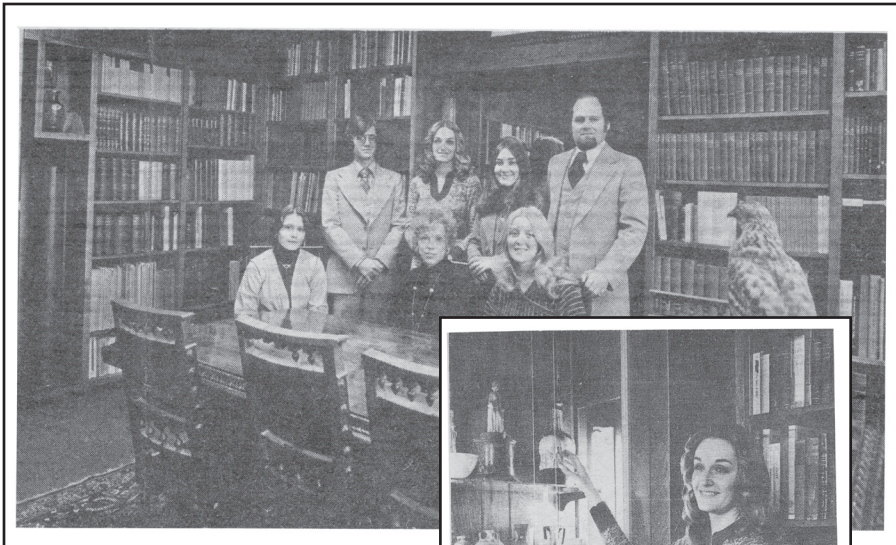


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# The Harlan J. Berk Ltd. Numismatic Library

By Shanna Berk Schmidt

I have always loved books. My job requires extensive travel, making my Kindle a lightweight and easy option, but, my choice for home would always remain the real deal, a book. Naturally when I started working in my family business 11 years ago I was drawn to the extensive array of numismatic books my father had acquired over the years. I was searching for a direction in the business and my passion for ancient coins quickly developed. The books became my tools for learning the business. Where many people go to school to begin to learn their trades, the numismatist has the unique method of learning primarily through various die studies and works written by fellow dealers and academics.

I was inspired but also perplexed. The library my father started in 1964 was wonderful but in a highly disorganized state. Of course he knew where most books were but anyone else was hard pressed to find a book on command. A few years into my employment at HJB Ltd., I made another goal. I was going to transform the library into something that we all could enjoy and make it easy to use for coin attribution. I also wanted to open the library up to our customers for study if they so desired.

This ambition resulted in my first active project at the company aside from assisting in ancient coin sales: book acquisition for the library. This wasn't my father's first effort however to offer library services to customers. Harlan Berk opened his library to the public in the 1970s. He even had a library card he issued to customers with St. Jerome imprinted on one side. St. Jerome is known most for his translation of the Bible into Latin in the 3rd century AD. My father's other long time passion is paintings and prints and he owned an etching with St. Jerome that he liked enough to display on his "library card".

My father celebrated the opening of his numismatic library on December 23, 1975 in Joliet, IL. *World Coin News* and *Coin World* both ran articles. A few notable people were in attendance, such as Kenneth Bressett, Ed Waddell (a partner of Harlan at the time), Carl Subak, and Paul Whitnah (famous for being the booming voice at the ANA conventions over the years). Photos were taken and published with the articles. The result of this big opening...no one came. This resulted in a sizeable amount of pessimism when I proudly announced to my father that I wanted to better organize,

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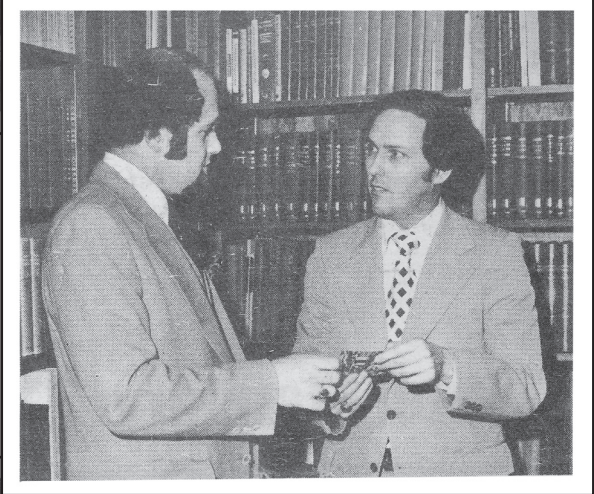
1) Photo from *World Coin News* (December 23, 1975) showing the HJB Ltd. staff at the first opening of the Numismatic Library. Notable people in the photo (far left standing, Ed Waddell, second from right standing, Ellen Berk (Harlan's first wife and mother of the author) and far right standing, Harlan J. Berk).

2) Former secretary Sherry Poputsa, showing an antiquity displayed in the library.

3) View of the reading room at the new HJB Ltd. Numismatic Library

4) View of part of the library at the new HJB Ltd. Numismatic Library





acquire books and open the HJB Library to the public. Of course he did everything correctly back in 1975 but times were different then. The procedures for buying coins were a lot less focused on scholarship than they are now. I am not suggesting that education wasn't important, it just was not as pivotal as it is today. Searching for pedigrees and truly understanding what one is buying is considerably more important today. Additionally, the library wasn't in downtown Chicago where our offices are located at present. The HJB Library was located in downtown Joliet, IL, about one hour's drive from the city. Getting there was a task and I'm certain that contributed to its failure as a public library.

Harlan learned the power of books and numismatics when he was searching for Roman coins in Cohen by reverse type. Carl Subak, another local dealer and a friend to Harlan, taught him how to properly find coins in Cohen. Cohen was one of the first important books purchased by Harlan for the library. Other notable firsts were the Pozzi Collection and Penny Whimsy which was autographed personally to Harlan. At the time of the Coin World article, Harlan had already acquired 1,300 books, 500 auction catalogs and 2,000 periodicals. The books covered areas pertaining to all aspects of classical civilization. Additionally, he had books that covered U.S. coins and the major collections that had been sold over time. Undoubtedly Harlan had the makings of a powerful resource if the public needed it.

Fast forward to 2007 and my new task. The library had grown by leaps and bounds despite the initial failure to serve the public. My father continually purchased new publications and important out of print works for the library. It grew by several thousand books. That said, after moving to a few different locations: from downtown Joliet, to the back of his parent's jewelry store, to Michigan Avenue in Chicago and finally 31 N. Clark Street, first in the store and then up on the 13th floor of the same building where we currently reside, the library had become rather jumbled. It became increasingly difficult to find a book and sometimes new acquisitions turned out to be books the library already had. I began the tedious task of putting the library in a logical order and acquiring books that were truly needed. I became a familiar face with all the book dealers at the time: Charles Davis, George Kolbe, Philip Skingley, David Fanning, Douglas Saville and of course the late John Burns. I'm sure whenever they saw me coming they knew that a large book order was in the offing. What they didn't realize was how absolutely vital and important this was for me.

Acquisition and reorganizing the library was a difficult but fruitful task. I began by organizing each office and our main area and attempting to sell the numerous duplicates that I found. As an aside we also sold books that we bought in bulk so some of the duplicates were on purpose! Harlan J. Berk Ltd. never specialized in numismatic books but education was something that needed to happen before a big deal was even imagined. This fortunately has not changed over time. We still always tell our customers to "buy the book before you buy the coin".

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- 1) Sherry Poputsa and Lynn Kassel, both former colleagues of HJB Ltd.
- 2) Harlan J. Berk and Kenneth Bressett, formerly of Western Publishing Co.
- 3) Harlan J. Berk and Paul Witnah of the American Numismatic Association
- 4) Harlan J. Berk, Carl and Eileen Subak and Ed Waddell

Then a chance bit of kismet transpired. I had just completed my master's degree though the University of Chicago and I had the wonderful opportunity to work on my thesis with Prof. Alain Bresson, chair of the classics department and associate member in the department of history. As an aside, my thesis, which is viewable on Academia.edu, or can be requested if anyone wishes, was written on the cultural property debate as pertains to ancient coins. Prof. Bresson casually mentioned our firm and me in part to Catherine Mardikes, the librarian of the classics department at the Regenstein library. Catherine runs the successful reading room at the library and while she manages a large array of numismatic publications it isn't her speciality (she is a papyrologist as well). While the Regenstein has an extensive collection of numismatic publications, Catherine, upon meeting me, commented that our library had things that the University of Chicago did not, particularly catalogs of important collections and the newest publications of numismatic literature. Hence began our relationship with the University of Chicago.

Catherine and I decided that it would be wonderful to capitalize on the burgeoning library at HJB Ltd. complemented by the established University of Chicago library. However, if we were going to create a library, a real working library, then we would have to act the part. Thus we began our project to catalog the entire ancient coin numismatic library (we also have other areas such as Egyptology, antiquities, world and U.S. coins but we concentrated on the most important area....at least to me). Working with Catherine's son, Michael, and two interns Bill Ward and Spencer Tucker, we started to catalog by the Library of Congress system. This was no small task and it has now been going on for about a year with some small breaks.

The HJB Numismatic Library is composed of five rooms, three of those rooms are personal offices of staff members (Harlan Berk, Curtis Clay, and Shanna Berk Schmidt). The other two rooms are larger and will function as public reading rooms. One of the two reading rooms contains most of the standard references that the public would want to have access to, as well as numismatic journals such as the *American Journal of Numismatics*, *Numismatic Chronicle*, *Revue Numismatique*, *Swiss Numismatic Review*, *Jahrbuch für Numismatik* and others both discontinued and continuing. This room also houses our series of auction catalogs and lists of firms that are no longer in business.

The second reading room contains catalogs of more important numismatic firms that are still in business. Despite being able to access most of these catalogs online, we believe that a paper copy is worth holding onto and easier for doing research in the library. We also have an extensive array of historical books on Greek and Roman history.

All the books in the ancients library are now in a spreadsheet which will soon be downloaded into a searchable database. For the moment we can easily see what books are missing from the library and continue to purchase, as well as find out where a book is, specifically which shelf and in which room at a moment's notice. The library is already available to the public but will be completed and ready by May 1, 2016. The HJB Library is not available for borrowing books, but we do offer many duplicates for sale and can assist customers or interested persons in finding a book for their own libraries. In cooperation with the University of Chicago we will make the library ac-



cessible to students, collectors and dealers alike. The internet has opened a substantial world of knowledge to the inquisitive, but nothing can truly replace the necessity for libraries in my humble opinion.

One important project still remains. Within the next few years Harlan J. Berk Ltd. will make available through either subscription or request access to our well-known Berk Photo File. This file was the lifelong project of a European numismatist who approached Harlan and sold him the group of several thousand cards with auction records, hammer prices and photos categorized by Greek, Roman, Byzantine and by metal type. The estimated file hold more than 100,000 entries and derives mainly from auction catalogs and fixed-price lists of c. 1970-1990, with a few earlier and later additions. There is about a 10 year gap in the 1990s before Coin Archives began to make auction records available. Each card in the file, many of which contain two or more specimens of the same coin type, will need to be scanned and then categorized by the Greek city state, Roman emperor, metal, type, etc. in a retrievable database. This will take months of tedious work, however, in the end we believe this will be an enormous help to the numismatic community by allowing recovery of pedigrees that have been lost over the years. Especially with the growing restrictions on ancient coins, re-attaching pedigrees to their coins will become ever more important.

I hope you will feel welcome to visit our library whether you are a student and just want to research or a buyer of ancient coins. Knowledge is power and we are proud to share in its dissemination. For more information about the HJB Ltd. Numismatic Library, our collaboration with the University of Chicago or the Berk Photo File please contact me, Shanna Berk Schmidt at [shanna@hjbld.com](mailto:shanna@hjbld.com) or 312-609-0026.



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# Final Confession

**The Unsolved Crimes of Phil Cresta**



**Brian P. Wallace & Bill Crowley**

Foreword by Dennis Lehane Introduction by Gilbert Geis

# Reminiscences of A Numismatic Bookseller: 5

## *Unlikely Coincidences Connected to a Buying Trip That Never Was*

By George Kolbe

In the late summer of the first year of the third millennium I was contacted about acquiring a substantial library located near Boston, Massachusetts. I was already thinking about attending an important function in New York City and decided I might combine the two. The library in question had been formed by the late Percy Rideout and I had been contacted by his daughter, Patricia Nestor.

Percy L. Rideout was a major mid-century American coin and currency collector/dealer, active in both local and national numismatic organization affairs. His rather remarkable collection of “coins and medals of the European colonial powers, their colonies and the independent successor states in the Americas, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia,” was sold in a 1990 Bank Leu auction sale appropriately billed “The Bostonian Collection.”

I had arranged to fly to Boston over a weekend, pack the library, buy it outright or accept it on consignment, and fly from Boston early the following Tuesday to attend the function in New York City. At the last minute, Patricia Nestor decided that it would be easier for her to have the library packed and shipped to California where, upon receipt, I would make a cash offer and also provide an estimate of what the library might bring if sold at auction.

Those wondering about the unusual terminology employed in the first sentence of this article may have divined the reason for using it. Yes, I was planning to fly from Boston to New York City early on the morning of September 11, 2001, to attend the opening of “Numismatics in the Age of Grolier—An Exhibition at The Grolier Club.” When the need to visit Boston became moot, I decided to attend a symposium scheduled the following month rather than the grand opening.<sup>1</sup>

All of this was again brought to mind when in January of this year a longtime friend and customer gave me a handwritten note at the New York International Numismatic Convention recommending a book: *Final Confession, The Unsolved Crimes of Phil Cresta*. I first met John Donoghue in Colorado Springs at the American Numismatic Association Summer Seminar in July 1984, where I was instructing a course on numismatic literature and where he was an enrollee. Hailing from the Boston area, John’s credentials as an Emerald Isle-ophile are second to none. Longtime owner of a highly successful liquor store in nearby Lynn, he is imbued with a good nature, outgoing personality, quick wit, and a keen intellect. One cannot help but like him.

Taking John’s advice I purchased a copy of the Cresta volume and, scanning the index, came across several entries under Rideout, Percy. The authors of the book,

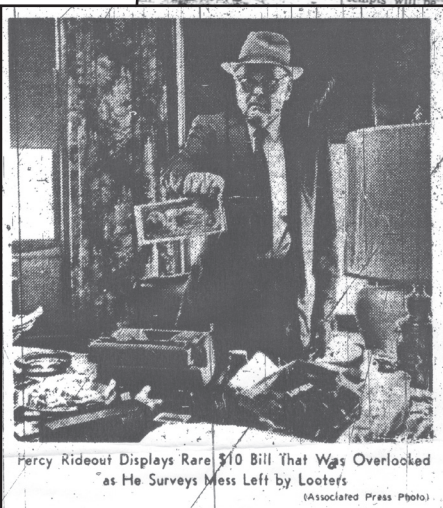


Brian P. Wallace and Bill Crowley, relate that Phil Cresta had come into contact with Rideout in April 1965 at a local barbershop on the ground floor of the apartment building on Commonwealth Avenue where Percy lived. Learning that "the rich guy was...a coin and stamp collector," Phil visited the nearby Boston Public Library and discovered that "This guy Rideout was the real deal...Just about every publication on stamps, coins, or rare documents had a quote from this guy or at least used his name somewhere in the article." Cresta called his two partners in crime and plans were made to separate Rideout from his valuables, though one of them initially demurred,



Percy L. Rideout With Emptied Safe Which Contained a Valuable Collection of Coins

(Record American Photo, Kevin Cole)



Percy Rideout Displays Rare \$10 Bill That Was Overlooked as He Surveys Mess Left by Looters

(Associated Press Photo)



COIN COLLECTOR Percy L. Rideout stands near safe broken open in his office at 520 Commonwealth av. He reported \$200,000 worth of coins were stolen. (Photo by Joseph Dennehy.)

saying “Honestly, Phil, it seems like a lot of work just to get some stamps. Can’t we just buy them at the post office?”

After several weeks of surveillance, the Cresta gang broke into Rideout’s apartment while he was away on a fishing trip and blew open two of his safes after taping mattresses around them to suppress the sound of the explosions. Their haul included 130 albums of rare stamps and over 1,000 pounds of valuable coins. The *Boston Globe* reported “that the Back Bay (coin) collection of Percy Rideout was considered one of the most prized in the world” and a headline on the front page of the *Herald Traveler* proclaimed: “Rare Coin Collection Valued at \$200,000 Wiped Out.” Phil Cresta and his two colleagues were never questioned about the burglary and the book reveals that the collection was fenced for \$100,000.

Complementing his coin collection, Percy Rideout possessed a fine numismatic library, highlighted by a large paper copy of John H. Hickcox’s *An Historical Account of American Coinage* (one of only five produced), and a nice example of W. Elliot Woodward’s 1886 *Sale 92* (a legendary rarity). Both were likely residing on Rideout’s bookshelves at the time of the theft but Phil Cresta would not have had any clue as to their value (though in 1965 the amounts were far less than at present).

Well, guess whose home address was next door to Phil Cresta in 1965? It was John Donoghue, who happens to have once owned a large paper Hickcox. And guess who purchased Rideout’s 92nd Woodward sale when it was first offered for sale in 2002? It was the future partner in Kolbe & Fanning and the transaction helped lead to a friendship and the duo’s subsequent relationship.

To me, the coincidences involved with the purchase of the Percy L. Rideout library are more than adequate to seriously dull Occam’s razor.

Over the years, the highly successful criminal career of Phil Cresta has attracted the attention of Hollywood movie moguls. In the 1960s, Cresta ultimately stole over ten million dollars, including an \$800,000 bank heist and the theft of \$100,000 of quarters from Boston parking meters (the story of that ingenious caper alone is worth the cost of the book). In 1968, following the Brink’s robbery, Cresta was put on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted List and, after three years on the lam, served time at Walpole Prison. He died penniless in 1995. Shortly after its publication in 2000, the book made the rounds in Hollywood and at one point Robert De Niro was slated to play the lead though nothing came to fruition. Last summer, out of the blue, the *Boston Herald* reported that James Franco was being considered for the role and in February of this year the newspaper confirmed that Ellen Pompeo, of “Grey’s Anatomy” fame, has bought the movie rights to the tale. Yet another movie with numismatic overtones may soon be available for viewing.

*Thanks are due John Donoghue for supplying the impetus and much of the factual information cited herein.*

## NOTES

- 1 Vide *The Asylum*, The Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, Volume XX, No. 1, pp. 11–13, Winter 2002.



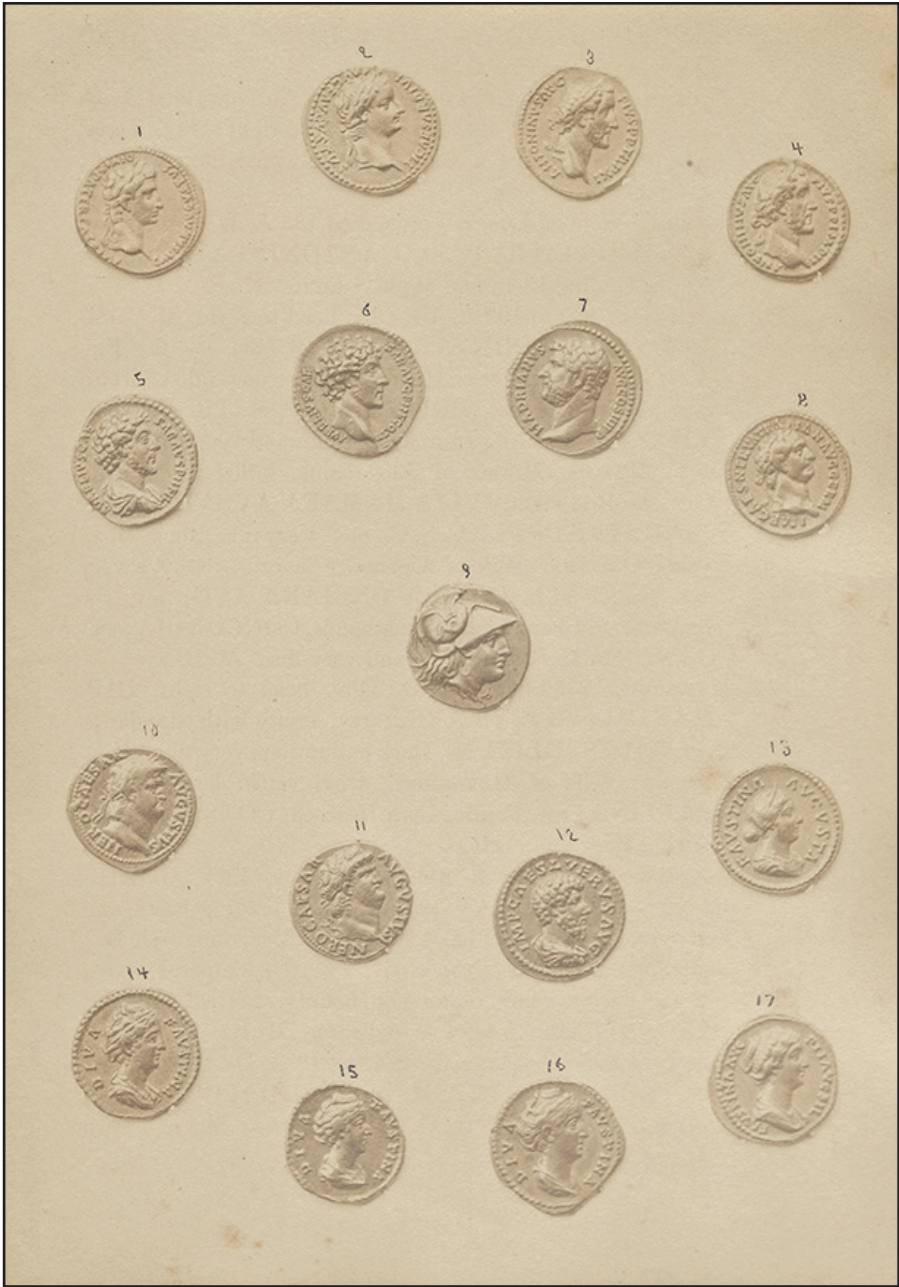


Figure 1: Plate 4 of Edward Cogan's sale of the Mortimer Mackenzie collection (1869).

# Off the Shelf:

## *The Earliest Auction Catalogues Photographically Illustrating Ancient Coins*

By David F. Fanning

In recent years, restrictive laws governing the transport of ancient coins across international boundaries have made the establishment of a coin's provenance of considerable importance to both collectors and dealers. One of the most effective ways to demonstrate that a given coin was above ground at a given time is to be able to show an illustration of it in a publication. Numismatic auction catalogues, in particular, have become a vital tool in demonstrating that a coin's provenance extends back far enough to ensure its legality and eligibility for export or import.

Early auction catalogues were generally unillustrated. Occasionally, for particularly notable collections, engraved or lithographic plates would be prepared to illustrate exceptional specimens in the auction. These types of illustrations are unsuitable for establishing provenance, however, as they rarely provide the sort of detail necessary to distinguish one example of a coin type from another. Only with the advent of commercial photography in the middle of the 19th century were processes developed that could allow the inclusion of accurate illustrations of coins that were truly representative of the item being offered.

The first photographically illustrated numismatic auction catalogues were published in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Edward Cogan's catalogue of the Mortimer Livingston Mackenzie collection, offered at auction on June 23 and 24, 1869, was the first catalogue to feature such illustrations.<sup>2</sup> The catalogue made for an impressive start, featuring five photographic plates of rather high quality. These were original albumen prints, mounted on card stock and bound in with the catalogue's pages. Cogan would use this process in several more illustrated catalogues throughout his career.

There is a general tendency to assume that older U.S. auction catalogues have little or nothing to say about ancient coins. The best bibliography of numismatic auction catalogues depicting ancient coins is John Spring's *Ancient Coin Auction Catalogues 1880–1980*.<sup>3</sup> Spring begins his coverage of plated catalogues with the April 1881 catalogue of the third part of the Bartolomeo Borghesi collection, offered for sale at auction by Sambon & Dura.<sup>4</sup> The catalogue includes two photographically printed plates depicting ancient Roman coins. In his comments regarding this sale, Spring writes, "As far as we know these are the first photographic plates to appear in an ancient coin catalogue."<sup>5</sup>

As it turns out, there are at least ten U.S. catalogues depicting ancient coins that were published before the Borghesi sale, and at least one British catalogue. Indeed, the Mackenzie sale itself features a full plate depicting nothing but ancient Roman coins (Figure 1).



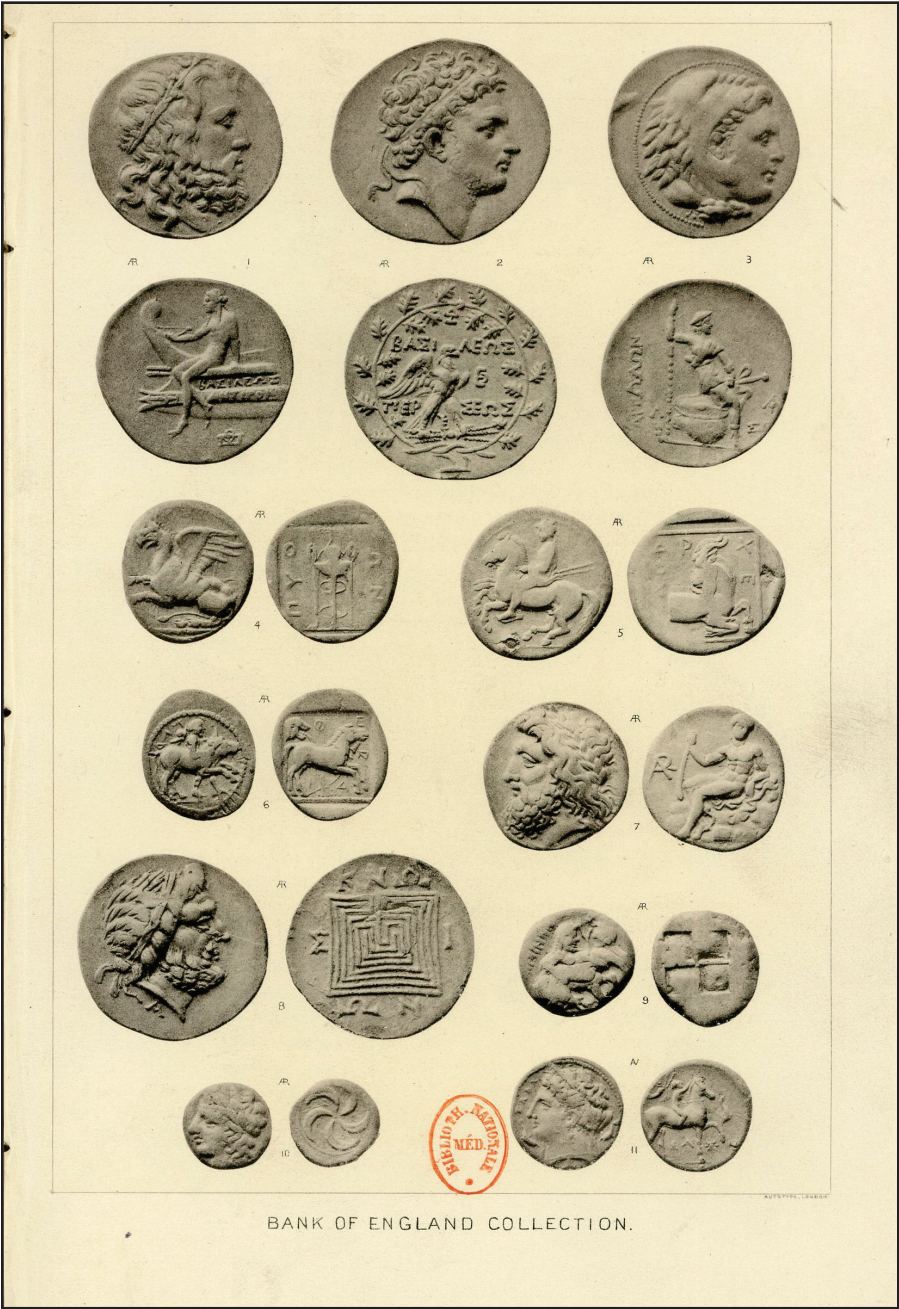


Figure 2: A finely printed autotype depicting ancient coins consigned by the Bank of England to the sale held by Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge on Feb. 13, 1878. The author wishes to thank Ted Buttrey of the Fitzwilliam Museum, who provided him with the image.



Cogan would prepare photographic plates for six other sales: those of the Allan, "Montreal," Cauffman, Sanford, Cohen and Jenks collections. Of these, only the April 1871 Montreal sale featured a plate including ancient coins, with seven ancient pieces joining ten other coins on the catalogue's sole plate.<sup>6</sup>

Cogan was not the only American numismatist who included photographic plates in his catalogues before the 1880s. W. Elliot Woodward, William Strobridge, J.W. Scott & Company, and John W. Haseltine all published numismatic auction catalogues with photographic plates in the 1870s. Only a few depicted ancient coins, however.

Haseltine's catalogue of the S.W. Chubbuck collection illustrated two ancient coins on the fourth of its five plates.<sup>7</sup> Strobridge's Sept. 24–27, 1873 catalogue of the J.M. Macallister collection is known in a rare variant with two plates, the second of which depicts a single Roman coin.<sup>8</sup> It is only with Strobridge's Oct. 6–9, 1874 sale of the Commodore Middleton collection that we find another catalogue with at least one full plate of ancient coins.<sup>9</sup> This scarce plated catalogue includes two such plates, one depicting obverses, the other reverses, of 18 notable ancient Greek coins from the collection. The plates are of high quality, as was the collection. Emmanuel J. Attinelli wrote that, "This cabinet of ancient coins, the property of Commodore Middleton, was without a rival in the United States, in the beauty and number of its gems. In either branch, Imperial, Family, or Colonial, it stood pre-eminent and well worthy the efforts of Mr. W.H. Strobridge, who catalogued the collection, who found himself at home in this his favorite branch of numismatology."<sup>10</sup> Unfortunately, it would seem that the market for ancient coins in the United States was in its infancy at the time, and the sale did not do well.<sup>11</sup>

Following a drought of a few years, we find two sales held by J.W. Scott & Company that are important for ancient coins. On July 30 and 31, 1878, the firm conducted the sale of the collection formed by L. Saalfelder.<sup>12</sup> The catalogue was issued in a version including two photographic plates entirely devoted to ancient Greek and Roman coins. The following year, March 3–8, 1879, the firm offered the collection of S.B. Schieffelin at auction.<sup>13</sup> This catalogue was also issued in a plated version, this time containing four full plates of nothing but ancient coins. Both of these sales are very rare with photographic plates, and their (fairly significant) content would be easy to overlook.

Another catalogue that features an entire plate of ancient coins is the first sale held by S.H. and H. Chapman.<sup>14</sup> Held on October 9, 1879 in New York, a special edition of the catalogue was published containing four photographic plates, of which the first depicts the obverses and reverses of nine Greek and Roman coins. The fine plates were prepared by Frederick Gutekunst, a famous early American photographer who was also responsible for the famous Maris New Jersey plate.<sup>15</sup>

Two more early American catalogues feature at least one plated ancient coin. The Chapman brothers' sale of the Samuel A. Bispham collection was issued in a catalogue with two photographic plates, the second of which includes an ancient Jewish coin.<sup>16</sup> More important is W. Elliot Woodward's 34th sale, featuring the William J. Jenks collection.<sup>17</sup> This January 1881 catalogue was issued with two photographic plates, the second of which is entirely devoted to ancient coins, Greek and Roman.<sup>18</sup>

While it is undeniably true that the focus of the U.S. coin market in the 19th cen-

tury was on American coins, we can see that the world of antiquity was not wholly ignored. This article has presented information about ten U.S. sales pre-dating the April 1881 Borghesi sale that featured plated ancient coins, with six of them including at least one plate entirely devoted to ancient coins and hence qualifying for listing in Spring's bibliography.

As a post-script, I wish to note one British sale that also deserves to be included by Spring: the sale by Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge of material consigned by the Bank of England and the British Museum.<sup>19</sup> This sale, dated Feb. 13, 1878, features a fine autotype plate depicting ancient Greek coins (Figure 2). This is the earliest British numismatic auction catalogue of which I am aware that includes a photographically printed plate, though I cannot claim to have investigated this area thoroughly.

In closing, I would like to note that while I am pointing out several omissions from John Spring's bibliography, I find his book to be exceptionally useful and—unlike most bibliographies—a genuine pleasure to read. It manages to combine the dry but necessary data of a standard bibliography with short biographical and historical essays on many of the classic European coin firms and their more illustrious consignors. Appended tables rank the most useful catalogues in various areas of ancient numismatics and also provide listings by consignor. It is a well-done work that I greatly admire and recommend, and I do not wish to seem overly critical of it here.

## NOTES

1. The British firm of Christie, Manson & Woods published the first auction catalogue illustrated with photographic plates in 1860: *Catalogue of the Celebrated Collection of Works of Art and Vertu, Known as "The Vienna Museum," the Property of Messrs. Löwenstein, Brothers* (London, 12–23 March 1860). While this sale included some minor numismatic content, none of it is illustrated on the photographic plates. For a good overview of early British photographically illustrated auction catalogues, see Elizabeth Pergam, "Selling Pictures: The Illustrated Auction Catalogue," *Journal of Art Historiography*, No. 11 (December 2014), pages 1–25.
2. Cogan, Edward. *Catalogue of Coins and Medals, the Property of Mortimer Livingston Mackenzie, Esq.* New York: Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co., June 23–24, 1869.
3. Spring, John. *Ancient Coin Auction Catalogues 1880–1980*. London, 2009. Spring begins his coverage at 1880, writing, "the start date has been chosen to include the first appearance of photographic coin plates" (page ix); hence, I am working on the assumption that he would have extended the period of coverage to an earlier date had he known of the catalogues discussed herein.
4. Sambon, Giulio, with Raffaele Dura. *3° Catalogo del Museo Bartolomeo Borghesi. Monete Romane, Consolari ed Imperiali*. Roma, 2 Aprile 1881 e giorni consecutivi.
5. Spring (op. cit.), entry 595. The second plate depicts a large bronze of Vitellius; the rest of the coins depicted are gold and silver.
6. Cogan, Edward. *Catalogue of a Private Collection of Roman, Greek, English, Scotch, American, Canadian and Miscellaneous Gold, Silver, and Copper Coins and Medals, also, Several Rare Numismatic Books*. New York: Bangs, April 3–5, 1871. The plate is not entirely devoted to ancient coins and hence would likely not be included in Spring's work even had he known of it (Spring's criteria for inclusion calling for the equivalent of a plate of ancient coins for early sales). For more on the Montreal sale, see my "Edward Cogan's 1871 Montreal Sale,"

- The Asylum*, Vol. XXX, No. 4 (Oct.–Dec. 2012), pp. 115–125.
7. Haseltine, John W. *Catalogue of a Very Large and Valuable Collection of Gold, Silver and Copper Coins and Medals, Comprising the Cabinets of S.W. Chubbuck, of Utica, N.Y., and Others*. Philadelphia: Birch, Feb. 25–28, 1873. This is the only plated sale issued by Haseltine.
  8. Strobridge, William H. *Catalogue of Prof. J.M. Macallister's Collection of Coins & Medals*. (New York): Leavitt, Sept. 24–27, 1873.
  9. Strobridge, Wm. H. *Catalogue of a Private Collection of Ancient Coins, and at the Close a Few Modern Coins, with an Addenda*. New York: Leavitt, Oct. 6–9, (1874). The plates were prepared by Napoleon Sarony, one of the most popular New York photographers of the time.
  10. Attinelli, Emmanuel J. *Numisgraphics, or a List of Catalogues, in Which Occur Coins or Medals, Which Have Been Sold by Auction in the United States, Also, a List of Catalogues or Price Lists of Coins, Issued by Dealers, Also, a List of Various Publications of More or Less Interest to Numismatologists, Which Have Been Published in the United States*. New York, 1876. Page 70.
  11. *ibid.*
  12. Scott & Company. *Catalogue of a Fine Collection of Ancient Coins, the Property of L. Saalfelder, Esq., to which Is Added a Small Collection of American and Foreign Coins*. New York: Leavitt, July 30–31, 1878.
  13. Scott & Co. *Catalogue of a Fine Collection of Greek, Hebrew, Roman, and Other Ancient Coins, in Gold, Silver, and Bronze, in Seven Coin Cabinets, and Large Iron Safe, Also, a Library of about Seventy Volumes of Choice and Rare Books on Coins, Many Folio and Quarto, with Plates. The Property of S.B. Schieffelin*. New York: Leavitt, Mar. 3–8, 1879.
  14. Chapman, S.H. & H. *Catalogue of a Very Fine Collection of Ancient Greek and Roman, Gold, Silver and Bronze, Foreign and United States Coins and Medals, the Property of and Catalogued by S.H. & H. Chapman*. New York: Bangs, October 9, 1879.
  15. Maris, Edward. *A Historic Sketch of the Coins of New Jersey, with a Plate...* Philadelphia: William K. Bellows, 1881.
  16. Chapman, S.H. & H. *The Collection of Mr. Samuel A. Bispham, of Philadelphia, Containing Many Fine and Rare Pieces*. New York: Bangs, Feb. 11–12, 1880.
  17. Woodward, W. Elliot. *Catalogue of the Collection of Ancient and Foreign Coins, Formerly the Property of Mr. Wm. J. Jenks, of Philadelphia. Also, of a Collection of American and Foreign Coins and Medals....* New York: Bangs, Jan. 10–13, 1881.
  18. This is the sale in which Woodward failed to identify an aureus of Pescennius Niger as the Becker counterfeit it was, precipitated a longstanding feud with Ed Frossard.
  19. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge. *Catalogue of a Selection of Coins of European Greece, in Gold, Silver and Copper, from the Collection of the Bank of England; Also of Some Duplicate Greek and Oriental Coins of the British Museum; Together with Some Important Cyzicene Staters*. London, 13 February 1878.

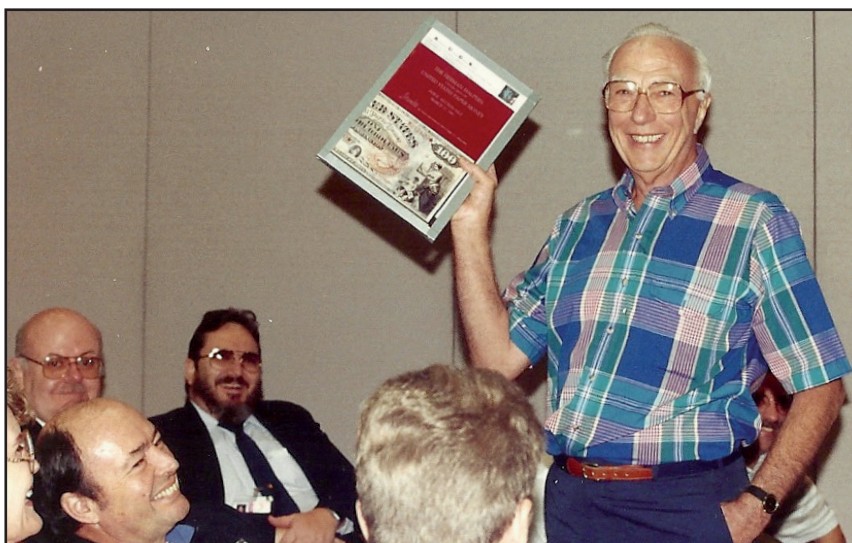




# Flashback

## *Attack of the BUGS!*

John J. Ford at the 1993 NBS annual convention holding the first numismatic catalogue slabbed by BUGS: the non-existent Numismatic Bibliographic Grading Service. Seated around him left to right are George F. Kolbe, John W. Adams, and Dennis Kroh. Photo provided by Joel J. Orosz, NBS Historian.



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